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ABSTRACT

This document contains samples and explanations from Colorado's state reading and writing comprehension test for Grade 4, hereby released to the public (parents, teachers, and any other interested parties). It presents one reading comprehension item, the scoring guide for that item, and 6 different student responses, with the scores they received. It also presents a writing comprehension test item with 8 parts, the scoring guide for that item, and 17 different student responses, including their scores. Finally, it presents one essay item and responses from 5 different students, with their scores. (SR)

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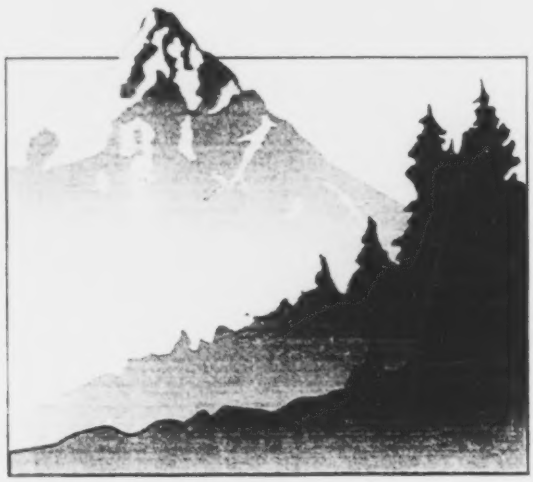

Released Passages, Items, and Prompts

Grade 4 Reading and Writing Comprehension

CSAP

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N. Bale

CS 014 092

CSAP Grade 4
Reading

Directions

Read the information below. Then do Numbers 1 and 2.

facts about **WINTER**

What was the coldest recorded temperature ever in Colorado?
-61°F, in Maybell, Colorado, on February 1, 1985.

What was the biggest recorded snowfall ever in Denver?
Stapleton Airport, 24 inches in 24 hours on December 24, 1982.

What is a blizzard?
A winter storm with very cold temperatures of 20°F or less, winds 35 miles per hour or more, and snow that reduces visibility to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or less.

What is a winter storm?
At lower elevations in Colorado, 6 inches of snow in 12 hours or 10 inches or more in 24 hours. In the mountains, 8 inches of snow in 12 hours or 12 inches or more in 24 hours.

What is wind chill?
How cold the air temperature feels when wind blows cold, moist air against exposed skin.

What is the winter solstice?
The time at which the sun's direct overhead rays are farthest south of the equator.

1 Which section would **most likely** be included in a book about the history of weather conditions in Colorado?

- ● What was the biggest snowfall ever in Denver?
- ○ What is a blizzard?
- ○ What is wind chill?
- ○ What is the winter solstice?

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2 Each heading in the article asks a question. Which **two** questions from the article would **best** be answered by using a **glossary** in a textbook? Write the **two** questions in the chart below.

A glossary would help answer these two questions from the information about winter.
1)
2)

Which **two** questions from the article would **best** be answered by using **weather records**? Write the **two** questions in the chart below.

Weather records would help answer these two questions from the information about winter.
1)
2)

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FACTS ABOUT WINTER

Item 2:

Each heading in the article asks a question. Which **two** questions from the article would **best** be answered by using a **glossary** in a textbook? Write the **two** questions in the chart below.

Rubric

Exemplary Response:

Part A: Any two of the following:

A glossary would help answer these two questions from the information about winter.
• What is a blizzard? • What is a winter storm? • What is a wind chill? • What is the winter solstice?

Part B: Both of the following:

Weather records would help answer these two questions from the information about winter.
• What was the coldest temperature ever in Colorado? • What was the biggest snowfall ever in Denver?

Score Points:

2 points	Two responses from Part A and two responses from Part B correctly placed in charts
1 point	One response from Part A and one response from Part B correctly placed in charts, OR two responses from either Part A or Part B, OR one response from Part A and two responses from Part B, OR two responses from Part A and one response from Part B
0 points	other

Standard 5: Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of sources.

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94A-2-A

94 Each heading in the article asks a question. Which of the questions might best be answered by using a glossary in a textbook? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

A glossary would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. What is the winter solstice
2 What is a blizzard

Which of the questions might best be answered by using weather records? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

Weather records would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. What is the biggest snow fall.
2. What was the coldest temprature in Co.

Score: 2

94A-2-B

94 Each heading in the article asks a question. Which of the questions might best be answered by using a glossary in a textbook? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

A glossary would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. What is a blizzard?
2. What is a Winte Storm?

Which of the questions might best be answered by using weather records? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

Weather records would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. What was the coldest temperture ever in Colorado?
2. What was the bigget snowfall ever in Denver

Score: 2

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94A-1-A

94 Each heading in the article asks a question. Which of the questions might best be answered by using a glossary in a textbook? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

A glossary would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. Because the term of the question "What is a blizzard?" will be there when your reading.
2. If your reading a book about "winte storms" and you want to know the answer to what is a winter storm look it up in the back of the book.

Which of the questions might best be answered by using weather records? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

eather records would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. So you would know if a blizzard is coming in and how bad it will be.
2 also weather records are good because you'll know what the coldest weather ever was in Denver.

Score: 1

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94A-1-B

94 Each heading in the article asks a question. Which of the questions might best be answered by using a glossary in a textbook? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

A glossary would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. The time at which the sun's direct overhead rays are farthest south of the equator,
2. Facts about winter.

Which of the questions might best be answered by using weather records? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

Weather records would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. What was the coldest temerature ever in Colo?
2. What was the biggest snowfall in Denver?

Score: 1

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94A-0-A

94 Each heading in the article asks a question. Which of the questions might best be answered by using a glossary in a textbook? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

A glossary would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. the winte can be the coldest seaon ever
2 the wind could come up to your skin and freeze it

Which of the questions might best be answered by using weather records? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

Weather records would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. the time wich the sun can direct overhead and rays are fthest south of the equator
2. How the coldest air can freeze up your skin.

Score: Ø

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94A-0-B

94 Each heading in the article asks a question. Which of the questions might best be answered by using a glossary in a textbook? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

A glossary would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. it is a cold season.
2 Snow falls Down

Which of the questions might best be answered by using weather records? Choose two of the questions and fill in the chart below.

Weather records would help answer these two questions from the information about winter:
1. show would fall today and tomorow
2 it will be 10° digreet today and 10° below 0° tonight

Score: 0

CSAP Grade 4
Reading

Directions

Read this article about beavers. Then do Numbers 1 through 8.

BUSY BUILDERS

by George Laycock

A farmer in Minnesota had a big surprise one morning when he looked out his kitchen window. His beautiful cornfield had turned into a muddy lake.

The farmer rushed out to his truck and hurried to the creek. He discovered that, during the night, a family of beavers had moved in and built a fine new dam across the creek. It was working perfectly, too. Hardly a drop of water was getting through!

The farmer spent many hours tearing down the dam. Finally, the water ran out of his cornfield and back to the flowing creek.

That night the beavers built a new dam. Every night, after the farmer had torn down the dam, the beavers rebuilt it. They used up the trees and the brush. Then they snipped off all of the farmer's corn to build one last dam of cornstalks.

When they finally moved on, they left behind a farmer who never wanted to see such hard-working beavers again!

How does the beaver do it? It sits up on its short hind legs, using its wide, flat tail for balance. It gnaws away at the wood with its long, sharp front teeth until the tree begins to crack. As the tree falls, the beaver dives into the water to keep from being hit!

Next, the beaver cuts the tree into smaller pieces that it can push or pull through the water. The lakes and ponds created by beaver dams also provide homes for many animals.

"Busy Builders" adapted from "The Beaver: Nature's Engineer," copyright © 1989 by George Laycock, published in *Boy's Life*'s December 1989 issue. Reprinted by permission of the author.

The beaver feels very safe in the water, where it can escape from wolves, bobcats, bears, and other predators. It can stay under water for 15 minutes without coming up for air. The beaver's feet have webs between the toes, which makes each foot a strong paddle for swimming. Thick, waterproof fur protects the beaver from the cold.

In the water, the beaver uses its flat tail to help it steer, like a rudder on a boat. When an enemy comes around, the beaver lifts its heavy tail and slaps it on top of the water. This makes a loud cracking sound like a gunshot that warns other beavers to dive into safe water.

Beavers always seem to be busy cutting trees and building dams or beaver homes. Often they work at night so they can stay out of the way of people. Sometimes, they can be very helpful to people. Wildlife rangers in New Jersey once wanted to flood an area. They wanted to create a new nesting area for water birds. Human experts said it would cost $25,000.

Then a family of beaver "experts" moved in and built a dam for free! Everyone, including the beavers and birds, was happy.

1 Which sentence **best** tells what this story is about?

- ○ Beavers' dams create work for farmers.
- ● Beavers' bodies and work habits make them good builders.
- ○ Beavers built a $25,000 dam in New Jersey.
- ○ Beavers always seem to be happy.

2 If a wolf came to a beaver's pond, the beaver would use its tail to

- ○ stand up taller to scare the wolf.
- ● warn other beavers about the wolf.
- ○ hit the wolf to protect itself.
- ○ splash water in the wolf's eyes.

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3 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the chart. On one side of the chart, write **two** facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell **how** these things help the beaver live in water.

Body Part or Ability That Helps a Beaver in Water	How This Part or Ability Helps a Beaver in Water
1) _____	1) _____
2) _____	2) _____

4 People use the expression "busy as a beaver" to describe someone who

- ○ builds dams all day.
- ○ cuts trees at night.
- ○ helps people.
- ● works hard.

5 If you wanted to find out more facts about the beaver's strange tail for a school report, where could you find the **most** information?

- ○ from a folktale called "How the Beaver Got Its Flat Tail"
- ● from a nature book called *The Beaver's Special Body*
- ○ from a cartoon called *The Tale of Benji Beaver*
- ○ from a newspaper article titled "Beaver Dam Blocks River"

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6 Read this sentence from the story.

The beaver feels very safe in the water, where it can escape from wolves, bobcats, bears, and other predators.

What does the word *predators* mean here?

- ○ mammals
- ○ beavers
- ● enemies
- ○ neighbors

7 Pretend you are a photographer and you want to take a picture of a beaver cutting down a tree. But every time you go to a beaver pond, the beavers are frightened and run away. Which book would help you the **most** with your problem?

- ● *How to Observe Wild Animals*
- ○ *How Beavers Make a Dam*
- ○ *Animals of the Forest*
- ○ *The Best Ways to Cut Down Trees*

8 If you were a wildlife ranger in New Jersey, how would you feel about what the beavers did there? Explain why.

_____

_____

_____

_____

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BUSY BUILDERS

Item 3:

According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the chart. On one side of the chart, write **two** facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell **how** these things help the beaver live in water.

Rubric

Exemplary Response:

Body Part or Ability That Helps a Beaver in Water	How This Part or Ability Helps a Beaver in Water
• webbed feet	• helps beaver swim faster/makes feet into strong paddles for swimming
• thick fur/waterproof fur	• helps protect beaver from cold water
• flat tail	• helps beaver steer while swimming/acts like a rudder in water
• teeth	• helps beaver chew trees for dam
• can hold breath for 15 minutes	• helps beaver hide from enemies underwater
• ability to swim	• helps beaver escape from enemies, find food, and build dams

Score Points: (4 points maximum)

- 1 point for identifying one body part/ability which helps a beaver live in water.
- 1 point for corresponding reason why this body part/ability helps a beaver live in water.
- 1 point for identifying a second body part/ability which helps a beaver live in water.
- 1 point for corresponding reason why this body part/ability helps a beaver live in water.

Note: Information must be in correct sections of charts. This is not a reading comprehension question (see standard below).

Standard 5: Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of sources.

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BUSY BUILDERS

Item 8:

If you were a wildlife ranger in New Jersey, how would you feel about what the beavers did there? Explain why.

Rubric

Exemplary Response:

A clear feeling/reaction with a relevant explanation:

Part A: Feeling/Reaction

- happy
- unhappy/sad
- any other justifiable feeling/reaction

Part B: Explanation

Happy
- The beavers built a dam and flooded the area for free.
- The beavers saved us $25,000.
- The beavers created a new nesting area for the water birds.
- The beavers solved everyone's problems.
- Nature is doing what it is supposed to do (the ecosystem is not disturbed).
- Any other reasonable explanation that is textually based.

Unhappy/Sad
- if they flooded an area I didn't want flooded
- if they cut down all the trees
- if they cleared the land of its plants
- any other reasonable explanation that is textually based

Score Points:

2 points	Response states a feeling/reaction AND an explanation textually based (feeling/reaction can be implied from the explanation).
1 point	Response states only a feeling/reaction OR response states only an explanation but no feeling/reaction can be implied.
0 points	other

Standard 4: Students apply thinking skill to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.

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32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the chart On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things help the beaver live in water.

Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water	Why This Helps a Beaver in Water
1 His tail	1 It helps by warning other beavers
2 Its feet	2 strong paddle for swimming.

Score: 4

32A-4-B

32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the cha
On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things help th beaver live in water.

Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water	Why This Helps a Beaver in Water
1 Stay under for 15 mintes	1 It can hide from danger
2 webed feet	2 help swim

Score: 4

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32A-3-A

32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in th. On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abi that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things he. beaver live in water.

	Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water		Why This ~~Helps~~ a Beaver in Water
1	web feet	1	hide
2	~~tail~~	2	scare praderde away

Score: 3

32A-3-B

32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the chart. On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things help the beaver live in water.

Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water	Why This Helps a Beaver in Water
1 feet	1 because their web toes
2 tail	2 because it helps steer

Score: 3

32A-2-A

32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the chart. On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things help the beaver live in water.

Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water	Why This Helps a Beaver in Water
1 back feet to help him swim	1 his tail
2 teeth to help him cop down trees	2 front feet

Score: 2

32A-2-B

32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the chart. On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things help the beaver live in water.

Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water	Why This Helps a Beaver in Water
1 its fat help it	1 to swim
2 its nose	2 to smell

Score: 2

32A-1-A

32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the chart. On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things help the beaver live in water.

	Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water		Why This Helps a Beaver in Water
1	a beaver has a tail	1	it can breath onter
2	it us its tail to splash water on a bobcat	2	water for 15 minutes

Score: 1

32A-1-B

32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the chart. On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things help the beaver live in water.

Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water	Why This Helps a Beaver in Water
1 Can stay under water for 15 minutes until need air	1 So the beaver can stay under Longer.
2 no water can come into there home	2 There home wont be wet

Score: 1

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32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in th
On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abil
that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things hel
beaver live in water.

	Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water		Why This Helps a Beaver in Water
1	so they will have a home	1	Because it likes the water
2	Because, and Because it is protection ~~protection~~ protection	2	Because it a water liver

Score: Ø

32A-0-B

32 According to the story, what helps a beaver live in water? Answer by filling in the char On one side of the chart, write two facts about a beaver's body or its special abilities that help it live in water. On the other side of the chart, tell why these things help the beaver live in water.

Body Part or Talent That Helps a Beaver in Water	Why This Helps a Beaver in Water
1 So if they can get away	1 To not get attacked
2 They would be Safe	2 To trick them

Score: 0

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37 If you were a wildlife ranger in New jersey, how would you feel about what the beavers did there? Explain why.

I would feel angry because the cut down all the trees

Score: 2

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37 If you were a wildlife ranger in New Jersey, how would you feel about what the beavers did there? Explain why.

I would feel very happy because the beaver saved all the people that wanted it done 25,000 dollars.

Score: 2

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37 If you were a wildlife ranger in New Jersey, how would you feel about what the beavers did there? Explain why.

I would feel really thankful, Because without the beavers we would have to pay a lot of money.

Score: 2

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37 If you were a wildlife ranger in New Jersey, how would you feel about what the beavers did there? Explain why.

I will fill happy Because they are animals like us

Score: 1

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

37 If you were a wildlife ranger in New Jersey, how would you feel about what the beavers did there? Explain why.

I would feel bad because we need oxegen.

Score: 1

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

37 If you were a wildlife ranger in New Jersey, how would you feel about what the beavers did there? Explain why.

I want to no how they servive and were they sleep

Score: Ø

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

37 If you were a wildlife ranger in New Jersey, how would you feel about what the beavers did there? Explain why.

I would wonder. because I like beavers and I wonder about every thing

Score: Ø

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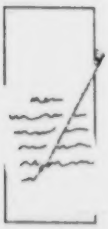
CSAP Grade 4
Writing

Directions
Do Number 1.

1 Imagine that your principal is collecting suggestions for making the school better. On the lines below, make one suggestion and **explain** how it will make the school better. You do not have to use all the lines. Just write on as many as you need.



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Directions

For Number 1, choose the word or words that belong in the sentence.

1 My brother _____ asleep.

- ○ fall
- ● is falling
- ○ are falling
- ○ were falling

Directions

For Number 1, choose the sentence in which the subject and verb are correct.

1

- ○ Mr. James enjoy drawing.
- ○ Tomorrow they draws together.
- ● Kevin says he likes to draw and paint.
- ○ We draws and paints in school today.

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71A-4

71 Imagine that your principal is collecting suggestions for making the school better. On the lines below, make one suggestion and **explain** how it will make the school better. You do not have to use all the lines. Just write on as many as you need.

If I was suggesting something to make my school better, it would be worth while. I would have the top noo fast food places come to our school. Then we would have savory food everyday. The meals would cost $1.00, but would come with more. Like for McDonalds we would get a dazzling cheesburger, greasy fries, and an ice cold drink. Then all the kids would chew and swallow with style, not with pain. That's what our school needs.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

71 Imagine that your principal is collecting suggestions for making the school better. On the lines below, make one suggestion and **explain** how it will make the school better. You do not have to use all the lines. Just write on as many as you need.

As soon as you put My idea in the school it will be a better place for everyone. I think We should put more playground equipment on the intermidiete playground. One reason I would like that is because When all the swings are taken some people don't want to go down the slide or go on the monkey-bars. so more play ground equipment will make this school a better place.

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71A-2

71 Imagine that your principal is collecting suggestions for making the school better. On the lines below, make one suggestion and **explain** how it will make the school better. You do not have to use all the lines. Just write on as many as you need.

By making the map in every room the size of a wall. Because wry body could see where the states were better on a big map than on a small map.

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71A-1

71 Imagine that your principal is collecting suggestions for making the school better. On the lines below, make one suggestion and **explain** how it will make the school better. You do not have to use all the lines. Just write on as many as you need.

I wold segest that we need a playgrownd

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

71A-0

71 Imagine that your principal is collecting suggestions for making the school better. On the lines below, make one suggestion and **explain** how it will make the school better. You do not have to use all the lines. Just write on as many as you need.

Ha pool over ber mar

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